Evidence of Progressive Ground Adjustment and Subsurface Flow Reorganisation at Peel Hill Farm

A field summary prepared for the landowner

*C*ompanion summary to technical submissions provided to the Environment Agency.

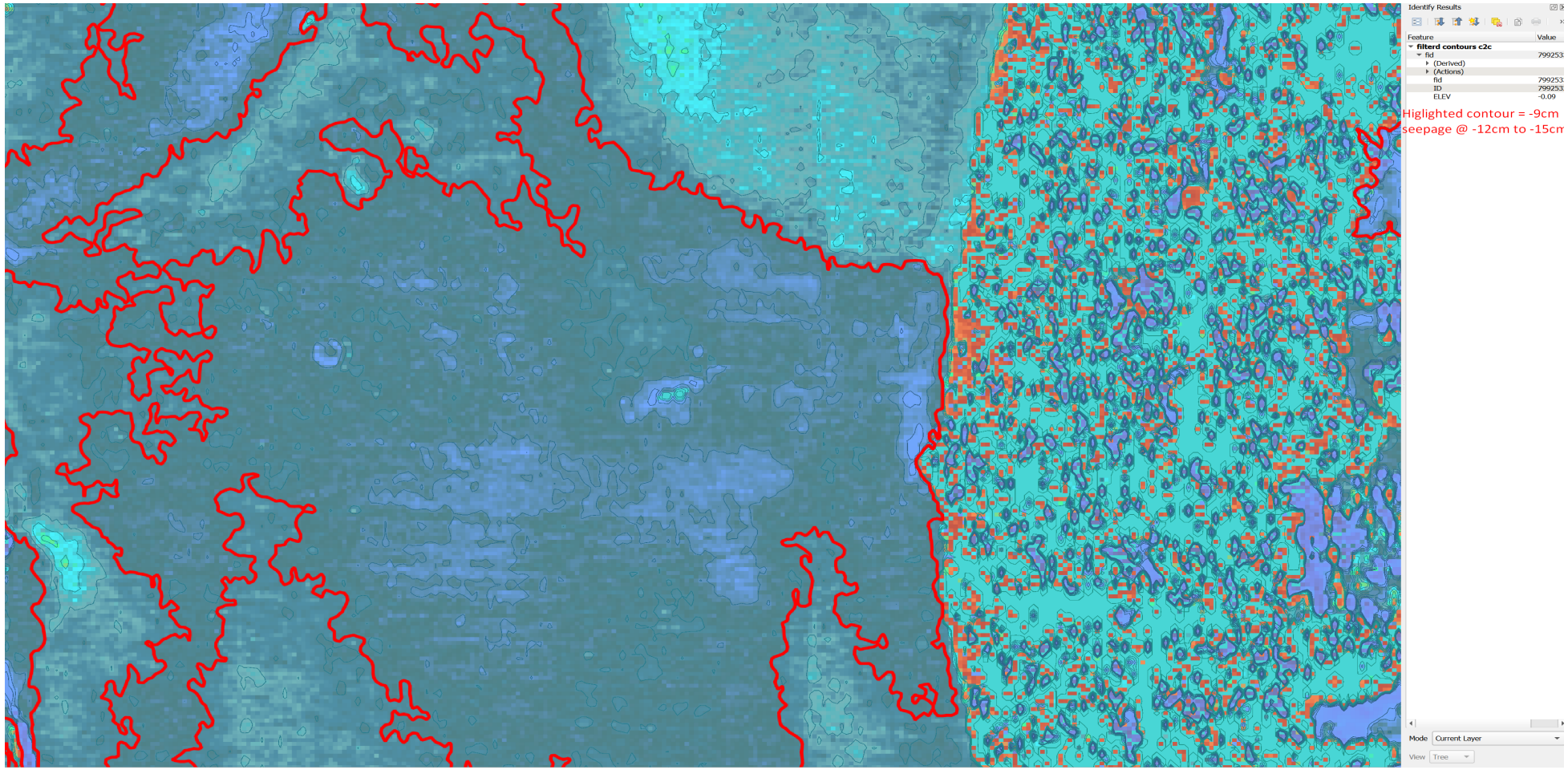
1. Why you are receiving this

Over the past nine years I have independently documented changes in the landscape surrounding Preston New Road using aerial photography, LiDAR elevation data, satellite imagery and field observations. Some of the most significant observations occur on or immediately adjacent to your land.

This summary explains why your land has become an important part of that work, how the observations relate to evidence already submitted to the Environment Agency, and why I hope we may be able to speak. Nothing in this document implies responsibility on your part or comments on your management of the land.

2. What first drew my attention

The first indication came from publicly available Environment Agency LiDAR data. Comparison of the 2018 and 2022 surveys identified a coherent area of relative surface lowering within otherwise gently sloping pasture. On its own this does not explain the cause, but it identified the fields as deserving closer investigation.



LiDAR elevation differencing showing a broad area of relative surface lowering within the field of -9cm to -15cm.

3. What can now be seen on the ground

Persistent wet ground, localised ponding and disturbed surface conditions were subsequently documented within the same general area identified by the LiDAR analysis. These observations were made independently of the elevation analysis, making the spatial correspondence noteworthy.

4. A recurring pattern

Similar circular depressions have been documented elsewhere around Preston New Road. While a single feature might have many explanations, repeated clusters occurring across multiple locations and over several years are the reason these observations now form part of a wider investigation.

5. Changes at the field boundary

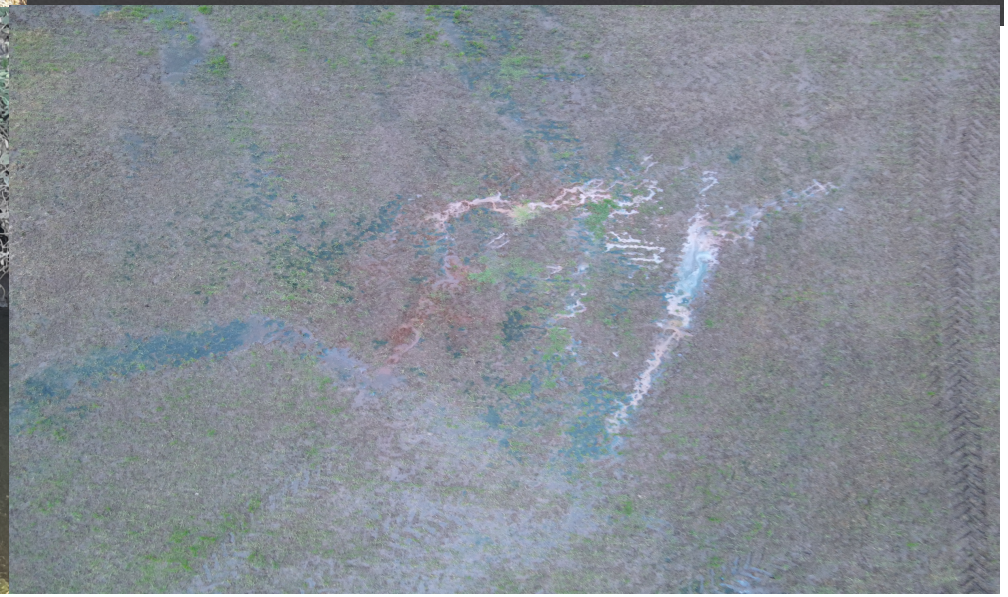
Ground change is not confined to the pasture itself. Along the adjacent watercourse the bank shows evidence of instability, including loss of mature trees and localised bank retreat. Further downstream, fine sediment has been documented entering the drainage network. These observations correspond with locations already recorded within Environment Agency documentation.

6. Why this matters

Your land has become an important part of a wider body of work examining long-term landscape change around Preston New Road using multiple independent datasets collected over almost a decade. These observations have informed technical reports submitted to the Environment Agency. The observations extend beyond your own land and form part of a network. From my observations elsewhere around Preston New Road, similar conditions appear to occur on other nearby farmland. If you happen to discuss these issues with neighbouring landowners, you may find that some have noticed comparable changes.

7. What I hope for

If you are willing, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these observations with you, hear your own experience of the land, and, if appropriate, discuss the possibility of future non-invasive surveys or more detailed investigation should funding become available. I will answer any questions.



Regardless of whether you wish to become involved, I hope this summary provides useful context for changes you may already have noticed. You can contact me at groundtruthgovernance@proton.me All my public reports can be found at https://groundtruthgovernance.wordpress.com/reports